

July 13, 2012

Cathy Wells
PO Box 1299
Shelburne, VT 05482

Re: Window Variance Request

Location: 53 Lucy Lane, Charlotte, VT

Site# 84359

Dear Ms. Wells,

I am in receipt of a variance request to allow the existing windows to remain in use. The current dimensions of the window's measure 16 inches in width and 44-1/2 inches in height with a clear window opening of 4.9 square feet.

Under the provisions of the amended 2006 Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code, Section 5, a variance may be granted when the applicant can demonstrate that an equal degree of safety is being provided through a safe alternative method.

Code Requirement: The minimum “**net clear opening of egress windows must be 5.7 square feet,**” and the sill height must be not more than 44 inches above the floor. The minimum net clear opening height is 24 inches and the minimum net clear opening width is 20 inches, with a total net opening of 820 square inches. When using a double hung window, the 5.7 square feet of open-able area must be in the bottom sash only. 2006 NFPA 101 24.2.2.

Considering the overall dimensions and the narrow width (16”) of the opening which would make it hard to exit and harder for the firefighters to enter, this variance request is **DENIED**.

Egress windows must be provided.

If you have any question, please contact me at 879-2302.

Respectively,
Joseph Benard, CFI; CPE
Regional Manager
Division of Fire Safety
Williston Regional Office
802-879-2302 –Desk
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